

Tell me more! EPRP's leadership vs. EPRA's citizenship

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March 23, 2017

A month ago Krubel Zewge, a member of the airborne elite, has died from heart complications. Debteraw Tsegeye, a known school teacher is held incommunicado by the TPLF leaders since 1991. Is there a relationship in their future? Or had they relationship in the past?

I cannot tell you for sure of their past relationships in either of cordiality or animosity but I can definitely tell you about their future relationships. It is called the Ethiopian Eway Community. It is about **leadership** and **citizenship** of which both Krubel and Tsegeye have worked tirelessly.

Leadership according to DEBTERAW

Tsegeye G. Medhin aka DEBTERAW is all about leadership. He knew what the Eathiopians (Ethiopians and Eritreans) would go through after the collapse of the Monarchy which ruled for thousands of years. Replacing Haile Selassie as an emperor and replacing feudalism as a system would take hard work and a lot of sacrifices in terms of time, energy and lives. The only feasible path was to empower the people via consciousness and education. As an educator himself both in Geez and Latin alphabets, Debteraw Tsegaye propagated the promotion of Kinet in all its aspects. This means that Art and Culture should be the domains of the people of Eathiopia. But in order to prosper this phenomena, the freedom of speech, expression and of assembly (SEA) should precede. There is no short cut for this, he used to warn me.

It is true that unless, the fusion of Art and Culture crisscross the mountains of Assimba, the valleys of Tselemt and the open markets of Marcato (ATM) happens as he wanted us to see in practice, nothing of value will occur. This journey is what I call the 'DEBTERAW' trail similar to Ho Chi Men trail.

So where are we now? Art and culture are being practiced in their respective localities, against the wishes of the TPLF government. The TPLF leaders true to their distorted orientation of struggle have used language as equivalent to Art and Culture. But language is not part of culture, according to many scholars.

Walleligne Makonnen and DEBTERAW have asked for freedom of speech, mind you this is not about language. Both asked for freedom of expression, but mind you this is not about 'Kebero' or machine guns. Both asked about freedom of Assembly, mind you this is not about gathering people in halls as the Derg and the EPRDF have done. It is about movement in two, three or any number coming together for whatever reason. These were the concepts and theories behind the struggle for democracy and freedom as conceptualized, written and practiced by both Wallelign and DEBTERAW.

The concept of leadership especially collective leadership as proposed by DEBTERAW, Wallelign, Tesfaye Debessay and many others, was not easy to implement. But the leaders of EPRP have done their best to popularize the concept and the theories of collective leadership. They designed a political party structure with its mouth piece known as "DEMOCRACIA". It is alive and well. A heritage on the bodies of the dead. If this is not an army of politics by any other means, what is it then the crisis that is hovering among all ethnic groups. Is this Walleligne's grant for speech or DEBTERAW's offer for leadership?

CITIZENSHIP ACCORDING TO WALLELIGN

As far as the past, Krubel who was a member of the elite air borne in the Ethiopian forces, had joined the leadership of Tsegeye Debteraw, a teacher and a scholar in the Ethiopian Academia. Both professional individuals had joined EPRA, the army wing of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) at a place called Assimba, a red mountain in the province of Tigray.

What is an army of EPRP? An army wing of EPRP may indicate some unreal concept and application because of the DERG's war mongering and the TPLF and EPLF reaction to their success, i.e. military success. Notwithstanding the military bravado of these groups, EPRP had and still has an army. It was real and it is still real. The death of Krubel and the disappearance of DEBTERAW signifies the existence of EPRA. This may seem an aberration or a contradiction. It needs thought processing.

"Tell me more about it" some friends mock me whenever they meet me as this concept and theory is deep for them to grasp it. Their persistent question is "how come dead persons represent an army and a party"? By that they mean writing about the dead as members and leaders of EPRP. Besides, there are many others who writes on social media about dead comrades claiming them as living history. Documentation of history belongs to professional historians, librarians and museum keepers. Making history belongs to the arena of those who struggle until justice (social) and truth (personal) prevails. That is my purpose of writing about the dead and collective leadership.

This persistent question of truth and justice should be addressed whenever history makers die or disappear. It is for this reason that I am writing this article. This article should be collaborated with my article of July 23, 2016 titled "the battle of trust and mistrust".

EPRP has always been about **check & balance**. This means that members should check the conditions and situations before taking any action, and if they make mistake or no mistake, they should go back and check, i.e. balance. It is not about checkbooks and finances. It is about **actions** and **responsibilities**.

This complex procedure, even today is unrecognized by the current president of USA, was adopted by members of EPRP. In addition to the traditional value of Ethiopians, the militant student body of Law and Business Schools at Haile Selassie I University made it simple for EPRP plans and programs to be continuum. Thanks to those who are alive and deceased for helping EPRP of Ethiopia and Eritrea for check & balance formulae. For this reason, there is hope for progress in taking the bull by the horn as the saying goes. Social justice and truth will prevail in our communities and societies.

Back to Assimba scenarios. Assimba as many misinformed persons depict, was not a military garrison. The trio of political cadre, the community school and the military training were joined to form a micro-orgasm activity. Let us say, Debteraw as a political cadre, Krubel as a professional military personnel and another a third person Makonnen want to carry out an operation in whatever it is. Three of them should check against one another and take action. That is a democratic way.

This democratic way by EPRP has been thwarted as an organization by both its enemies and some members as undemocratic and untenable. If this cannot work in Ethiopia and Eritrea, there is no reason why it should work in the United States of America. Tradition and modernity can be merged.

Despite all this procedure of check & balance, EPRP has been characterized in three perspectives:-

1. EPRP is an agent of EPLF
2. EPRP has helped TPLF to assume power and
3. EPRP had provoked the DERG to liquidate people

Why can't readers reverse the above allegations and find out for themselves. It is again about check & balance. People have become too complacent to check & balance. EPRP cannot help them, they should help themselves by reversing the above three allegations about EPRP.

As to the army of EPRP, it was an army of conscience and consciousness. It was not a fighting army. By fighting army, it means that without knowing your enemy, you fight to the death. Take for instance, the case of Mieson, "Astatqun Ataschersun" (arm us before we are dead). That slogan gave them the power to liquidate thousands of youths for those who were armed were hooligans, prostitutes and unconscious elements of the societies.

And in the field, while TPLF leaders were preparing country music in order to arm any peasant that comes around, EPRP leaders were busy teaching and politicizing the peasants to be good citizens.

As to being an agent of EPLF, there is no iota of truth of this assertion. The link was simply the recognition of Eritrea's colonial Italian history and an added grain of truth that democratic process will take place among the fighters of Eritreans. For that reason, many Eritrean Youth have joined the EPLF and ELF. While in prison, there was news that the elites of airborne of Ethiopia who were stationed at Keren had joined EPRP at Assimba. It was a boost up for a lot of prisoners.

But this boost up was not meant that the Krubels and his groups will fight to death. To die, they would die at Keren. Their presence is a symbol of joint struggle. This does not mean being an agent.

The point I am trying to make is that Krubel whom I know in Washington DC and Debteraw Tsegeye whom I know in Shewa AA have become soul mates for all of us who want social justice and truth.

Both individuals with their respective professions of teaching and securing the nation of Eathioia will remain in our hearts and brains. The ideal concept of leadership style followed by Tsegeye DEBTERAW and the fate of all individuals for being good citizens of Ethiopia as was practiced by Krubel Zewge, will remain open in the annals of struggle for change.

TRUTH WILL PREVAIL

For questions and concerns

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